

# Sustainable Funding for Conservation of Iowa's Natural Resources Meeting Summary

**Des Moines Botanical Center – Des Moines, IA  
December 11, 2006**

Committee members present:

Mark	Ackelson		Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Dan	Cohen		IACCB
Barbara	Finch		Iowa Farm Bureau
Rich	Leopold		Iowa Environmental Council
Lola	Lopes		The Nature Conservancy
Pauline	Novotny		Izaak Walton League of Iowa
Marvin	Shirley		Farmers Union
Ken	Tow	and Duane Sand	Secretary of Agriculture
Dave	Van Waus		Pheasants Forever
Jane	Clark		Sierra Club
Jeff	Vonk	and Ken Herring	IA DNR - facilitator
Henry	Rayhons		Iowa House of Representatives-Republican
Tammi	Kircher		Ducks Unlimited
Deb	Ryun		Conservation Districts of Iowa
John	Whitaker		IA House of Representatives-Democrat
Mary	Lundby		IA Senate-Republican

Committee member(s) absent:

Dick	Dearden		IA Senate-Democrat
Owen	Shunkwiler		Iowa Renewable Fuels Association

Committee Support Staff

Diane	Ford-Shivvers	IA DNR Legislative Liaison / SF Support
Doug	Harr	IA DNR Program Coordinator/SF Facilitator
Kim	Rasler	IA DNR / SF Support
Peter	Fritzell	IA DNR / SF Support
Jim	Zohrer	IA DNR / SF Support

Public present:

Duane	Sand	INHF
Jace	Mikels	Dem IA Senate Staff
Mary	Braun	House Democratic Staff
Perry	Beeman	DM Register
Teresa	Galluzzo	Iowa Policy Project Research Asst
Michael	Libbie	Insight Advertising
Arlo	McDowell	Izaak Walton League
Tommi	Makila	IA Assoc of Municipal Utilities
Marian	Gelb	DM Parks & Rec

### **Welcome, Opening Remarks – Jeff Vonk**

Jeff expressed his appreciation to the committee for their work and commitment to this important issue, noting it is an exciting time and the work they have been doing has tremendous potential to leave to a positive legacy. The committee was thanked for their steadfastness and for what they have accomplished so far and he encouraged them to continue their representation.

### **Summary of 11/01/06 meeting and review 12/11/06 agenda - Doug Harr**

Doug summarized the 11/01/06 meeting summary and discussed the 11/09/06 ICN statewide meeting noting 270 people signed in 11/09/06 for attendance at the 14 ICN locations and over 200 comments were received and are being compiled.

Marvin Shirley expressed his appreciation to Rich Leopold for the great job he did facilitating the ICN meeting and Barb Finch noted the PowerPoint Rich put together for the ICN presentation was very beneficial. The committee concurred.

Doug reviewed today's agenda.

### **Presentation on Study Completed by The Iowa Policy Project – Teresa Galluzzo**

Teresa presented data from The Iowa Policy Project's report on Investing in Iowa's Environment. The report will be made available to the public on 12/13/06 at their website: [www.iowapolicyproject.org](http://www.iowapolicyproject.org). General discussion and comments were made regarding the report.

### **Presentation on Iowans Willingness to Pay Survey – Dave Metz with Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, and Associates (FMMA)**

Dave presented preliminary information on the outcome of the Iowans Willingness to Pay survey conducted 11/27/06-11/30/06. A full report with an analysis of the data will be presented to the committee later this month. Per the committee's request, Dave elaborated on the process and nuances of the questions, responses, and some answers in comparison to what other states are experiencing in polls.

Dave noted that the survey is a snapshot of one moment in time on one small point and the committee discussed that it should be considered a tool to assist them in planning and in determining strategies and recommendations. The committee expressed encouragement by the responses.

Report recommendations were discussed. The committee has identified their work as being on target with the charge and with legislative leadership and direction, agreed to present a preliminary report by 01/10/07 with the mandated information with a request for additional time to be able to take the information compiled and create a fully researched report that would include the findings regarding the viability of identified funding mechanism for legislative consideration. The legislators will work toward a final report due date of 03/01/07 with that report to include a sustainable funding plan and recommendations.

The committee reviewed the difference between the funding mechanisms identified as possible revenue sources to explore further and funding mechanisms chosen to include in the poll.

## **Report Status and Finalization Needs – Ken Herring / Jim Zohrer**

Jim noted 3 pieces he needs to complete the report:

1. written and verbal ICN comments (being compiled)
2. final recommendations from the committee
3. incorporate the survey results into the report

The report preparation subcommittee (John Whitaker, Mark Ackelson, Tammi Kircher, Deb Kozel, and Duane Sand) has been working on the report draft. After receiving the needed pieces, a rough draft will be run through the subcommittee and then it will be sent to the full committee for their review. Jim confirmed a condensed report will be with the full report and he anticipates sorting the public comments by category. The closing section of the preliminary report is expected to include funding needs, sustainable funding strategies, and a recommendation for continuation. It was recommended to include the funding mechanisms the committee has identified for further research and include the reasoning for polling 5 of the identified funding mechanisms.

The committee identified the preliminary report submitted by 01/10/06 should include the full report, a 2-3 page summary, and an executive summary. Jim will, also, create an abbreviated version for emailing. A cover page from Jeff Vonk is being created to preface the report for submission. Ken Herring introduced the idea of including a document containing the signatures of the committee members which will show their representation on the committee and their support of the report. Committee members present agreed with the concept.

### **Determine next tasks**

The committee discussed the need to inform legislators about the sustainable funding report and how best that could be done. Rich Leopold was nominated as the committee's spokesperson and the committee will work as a team in supporting sustainable funding at presentations to legislators. The ICN PointPoint would be a good tool and for it to be updated with ICN comments and the Willingness to Pay survey information when it is received.

Diane Ford-Shivvers will work with legislators and their staff in identifying meetings and presentation opportunities that the committee can attend. Some committees for the SF team to begin giving presentations to would be: Environmental Protection, Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations subcommittee, Infrastructure subcommittee, and the full Appropriations Committee.

The full committee agreed to support the presentations as a team effort and specific individuals volunteered to assist in coordinating and outlining a strategy: Barb Finch, Rich Leopold, Marvin Shirley, Jane Clark, Lola Lopes, Mark Ackelson with support of Diane Ford-Shivvers. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

### **Other business**

Ken Herring noted the cost of the Willingness to Pay survey was \$31500 and made a plea to the committee for any financial assistance in helping to defray the cost of the survey would be appreciated, but not mandatory.

**Subcommittee needs**

The report subcommittee will be working with Jim Zohrer in creating a finalized document for full committee review, and then a final draft will be submitted to the full committee for their evaluation.

**Next meeting date**

January 3, 2007: 10a-3p

Tentative Agenda Topics:     Legislative Presentations  
   Parks 2020  
   Final Preliminary Report

**Meeting Adjourned**